

Maynard Finance Committee
Zoom Meeting ID:820 7095 4905
Final 12/14/20

Present: Tom Black, Elliot Bruce, Peter Campbell, Ken Estabrook (Chair), Alannah Gustavson, Kelly Kane, Jillian Prendergast (Vice Chair)

Absent: None

Others: Greg Johnson, Mike Guzzo, Natasha Rivera, Lydia Clancy, concerned citizens

All relevant documents available on board docs.

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm. Ken went over the legal remote meeting notice. This meeting was not recorded.

Ken went over the meeting's agenda. He shared the minutes from 11/23/20 for review. Tom motioned to approve, Peter seconded. Voted 7-0 to accept.

Chair Updates

Ken attended the Powdermill Rd development meeting (as did Kelly) and he believes we should keep an eye on this as it evolves. He asked if Kelly had anything to add. Kelly was pleased to hear that the developers seemed interested in what the town wanted to have. There was also representation from Acton, which suggested good coordination.

Ken asked Alannah and Jill about their notes from the Budget Subcommittee.

Alannah reported that Greg and Mike are trying for Budget by Christmas, which will be a "worst case scenario" draft. They are on Rev 13 for FY21 with New Growth certified at \$701,615 and Charter School Reimbursement at \$323,775, which is the number from the Governor's budget though they are hoping it may go up with the final budget. They lowered Marijuana to \$125K in this revision. Mike clarified the money goes to the General Fund. There was discussion on where it could be used, and may tie it to the Master Plan. Notes on Expenses: General Gov has a new phone system- fiber system upgrade and increased custodial services. The Schools budget went up again, this is what Wayne and Brian gave as level service. In the DPW they are trying to increase Snow and Ice and tree services, as these are two places that never have enough budgeted for and end up relying on Free Cash and Reserve Fund Transfers. A positive note is that trash stickers averaging \$45k a month revenue, higher than expected.

Jill added that Peg access might be an issue when it runs out because it could affect teachers, particularly with WAVM. This money comes from some contracts with Verizon, and those are up again soon, but are hesitant to resign.

Ken asked Greg to clarify the PEG information. Greg says that it is true that the level of commitment is lowering. It used to be 10 year contracts, and now going down to 5. The companies pay for use of town infrastructure and the money goes to the town for education.

FY21 Town Budget Updates

Ken asked Greg for any updates for this year's budget. Greg said the change coming from the Conference Committee for the state has charter school reimbursement increasing from the

Governor's budget, to \$364k. Personnel changeover in town is substantial, particularly a consultant for the Treasurer/Collector's office, Library Trustee change, and Megan Zamutto starting her maternity leave. Greg also mentioned the fire station vote is on Wednesday, and he is hoping everyone gets out to vote early because it is looking like snow that evening. But over 700 absentee ballots have already been cast.

Ken asked Natasha and Lydia if the schools had the numbers on how many students are enrolled in charter schools at this point. Ken is hoping to use this information to help Greg with budgeting ahead of the state official numbers. Lydia was able to ask Colleen during the meeting and Colleen reported that the numbers were up 17 students from last year.

Peter asked if there was an update on the FY21 school budget. Natasha said that staffing levels aren't changing dramatically between FY21 and FY22, but in FY21 there was COVID funding, where FY22 doesn't have that funding. There will be a presentation for their FY22 budget at their meeting this Thursday. Lydia mentioned ongoing negotiations with the teachers' union potentially impacting their budget. Natasha also mentioned that the building supervisor position is also a new addition to their budget.

Peter asked if there were any sharp issues with local receipts for FY21. Mike said we are basically on track, some are ahead, some are short. Greg said there were adjustments made in the Fall to accommodate most of the issues.

FY22 Town Budget/ Planning

Greg shared the FY22 revision 5 on the screen. There are still some expense unknowns, such as Assabet school assessment. Health insurance is still being negotiated. The Assessor is still figuring out the New Growth number. Alannah asked what the increase in DPW was for and Greg clarified it was additions to snow and ice, tree service, and MS4 (storm water drainage). Tom asked if the increase in the School budget was mostly due to a loss of CARES Act funding in FY22. Natasha said that the full School Committee hasn't deliberated on the budget yet, but much of the increase is staffing. Greg will send the latest revision to Ken to share with the Committee.

Upcoming meeting schedule

Ken shared his budget planning schedule on the screen and went over the dates as mentioned in the town charter. Fincom meets on Jan 11 and Jan 25th. We will have the budget draft by our second January meeting, and will have one other meeting (Feb 8) before the Joint Budget Review meeting.

Budget Messaging

Ken shared our Pitch Deck slides from June. Slide 4 about Capital improvements, which are all current and relevant. The balance sheet needs to be revisited as we borrowed from some of our stabilization accounts recently. Ken asked the Committee how we would like to move forward with our budget messaging. Ken wants to be sensitive to Greg and Mike's time, but also asked what numbers they helped us with last year and where we did our own calculations. Elliot is hoping to get spreadsheets from Greg and spend some time going through them for updating our slides. Alannah supports 5 bullet points, explaining Prop 2 ½ and the Tax levy versus the tax ceiling. Jill isn't sure projections this year are going to be as helpful or even doable this year.

because COVID has thrown things so far afield. Maybe this year we should focus on the short-term. She is cognizant of making any extra work for anyone right now. Peter agreed with Jillian's sentiment. He thinks the emphasis at the February meeting should be placed on getting the other participants more bought-in to the multi-year planning process. Mike wants us to keep in mind that FY22 and FY23 will still be impacted by COVID. Kelly would like to make sure the bonds being paid off are also highlighted, and to show some of the changes over time between departments. She understands the issues COVID is presenting, but would still like to take a stab at projections as appropriate.

In Summary, Ken's focus for our message are these points:

- 1) Prop 2 ½
- 2) Growth trends - can't cut alone
- 3) Charter school tuition growth

Ken is going to work on an action plan and assign Committee members to them.

The Committee expressed their gratitude to Mike Guzzo for his service to the town and congratulated him on his retirement, effective January 8th.

Tom motioned to adjourn. Peter seconded. Vote 7-0 to adjourn at 9:03pm.

FinCom Reserve FY21

Approved at Town Meeting, Article 13: \$250,000.00

Potential Reserve Fund transfers; approved by BOS:

Police Sal - Sick Leave Buyback	35,908.00
Police Sal - Sick Leave Buyback	16,699.00
Fire Sal - Sick Leave Buyback	33,562.56